



**DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Wildlife Resources Section  
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Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Robert A. Fala  
Director

February 26, 2015

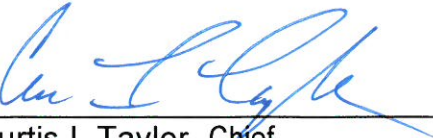
TO: Hunters, Anglers, Trappers, Landowners, Farm Groups and Others Interested  
in Making Recommendations for Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Regulations.

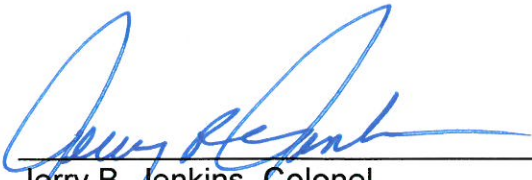
Meetings to solicit your comments concerning the 2015-2016 big game hunting regulations; 2016-2017 hunting and trapping regulations; 2016 fishing regulations; and reptile and amphibian regulations are scheduled for March 16 and 17, 2015.

The Division of Natural Resources is recommending most season dates, bag limits and creel limits similar to the 2014-2015 seasons (see recommended changes attached).

In order for us to obtain your recommendations and accurately record them, it is necessary for you to complete and return the attached form prior to April 3, 2015, to the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, West Virginia, 26241, Attn: Gary Foster.

Your continued interest in the state's natural resources programs is appreciated.

  
Curtis I. Taylor, Chief  
Wildlife Resources Section

  
Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel  
Law Enforcement Section

Please feel free to comment or provide recommendations on hunting, fishing, amphibian and reptile regulations or on any phase of our wildlife and law enforcement programs. Please use space provided on the following page. **Returning the attached tables is not necessary.**

Please complete the following section. Be sure only one form is submitted per individual or organization. Unsigned questionnaires will not be counted.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Individual, Group, or Organization Name\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members\_\_\_\_\_Telephone\_\_\_\_\_

Signed\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_County\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMMENTS AND THE QUESTIONNAIRE  
BY APRIL 3, 2015**

Return To:

Gary Foster  
WV Division of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Section  
P.O. Box 67  
Elkins, WV 26241

HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS COMMENTS:

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FISHING, AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE REGULATIONS COMMENTS:

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE  
2015-2016 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2015 black bear seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2015 antlerless deer season be open as shown on the attached tables.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2015-2016 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE  
2016-2017 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other hunting and trapping regulations for the 2016-2017 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2016 FISHING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that Walleye regulations be adopted as shown in the attached table.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

2. All other fishing regulations for 2016 would be same as those in 2015.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed 2015 Black Bear Seasons**  
**Archery Season Statewide Sep. 26 - Nov. 21 & Dec. 7 - Dec. 31**

County	Without Dogs			With or Without Dogs			
	Dec. 7 - Dec. 31	Nov. 23 - Dec. 5	Nov. 23 - Dec. 5	Dec. 7 - Dec. 31	Sept. 19 - Sept. 25	Sept. 5 - Sept. 12	Oct. 3 - Oct. 9
		Permit Only	No Permit Needed				
<b>Dist. I</b>							
Barbour	X - W. of Rt. 92	X		X - E. of Rt. 92	X - E. of Rt. 92		
Brooke	X						
Hancock	X						
Harrison	X						
Marion	X						
Marshall	X						
Monongalia	X		X				
Ohio	X						
Preston			X	X	X		
Taylor	X	X					
Tucker		X		X	X		
Wetzel	X						
<b>Dist. II</b>							
Berkeley	X		X				
Grant		X		X	X		
Hampshire*	X		X	X			
Hardy		X		X	X		
Jefferson	X		X				
Mineral	X - E. of New Creek			X - W. of New Creek			
Morgan	X		X				
Pendleton		X		X	X		
<b>Dist. III</b>							
Braxton	X - W. of I-79	X		X - E. of I-79	X - E. of I-79		
Clay	X - N. of Elk River	X		X - S. of Elk River	X - S. of Elk River		
Lewis	X	X					
Nicholas**			X	X	X		
Pocahontas		X		X	X		
Randolph		X		X	X		
Upshur	X - W. of Rt. 20	X		X - E. of Rt. 20	X - E. of Rt. 20		
Webster		X		X	X		
<b>Dist. IV</b>							
Fayette**			X	X			X
Greenbrier		X		X	X		
McDowell**				X		X	
Mercer	X	X					
Monroe	X - W. of Rt. 219	X		X - E. of Rt. 219	X - E. of Rt. 219		
Raleigh**			X	X			X
Summers	X	X					
Wyoming**				X		X	
<b>Dist. V</b>							
Boone**			X	X			X
Cabell	X						
Kanawha**			X	X			X
Lincoln	X						
Logan**				X		X	
Mason	X						
Mingo**				X		X	
Putnam	X						
Wayne	X						
<b>Dist. VI</b>							
Calhoun	X	X					
Doddridge	X						
Gilmer	X						
Jackson	X						
Pleasants	X						
Ritchie	X						
Roane	X						
Tyler	X						
Wirt	X						
Wood	X						

\* Special Dog-Only Hunt on Nathaniel and Short Mountain WMAs, Dec. 7 - Dec. 31.

\*\* Statewide Bag Limit 2, Provided at Least 1 Bear Comes From Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming Counties.

## PROPOSED 2015 ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON HUNTING REGULATIONS (PRIVATE LAND)

Counties or Parts Thereof Closed to Antlerless (Class N/NN) Hunting	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Limited Licenses for Resident and Non- resident (Must Apply)	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN. (*see special regulation requirement below)
	(Season Bag Limit: 1)	(Season Bag Limit: 1)	(Season Bag Limit: 3)	(Season Bag Limit: 3)
	Oct. 22-24; Nov. 23-Dec.5; Dec. 17-19; Dec. 29-31	Oct. 22-24; Nov. 23-Dec.5; Dec. 17-19; Dec. 29-31	Oct. 22-24; Nov. 23-Dec.5; Dec. 17-19; Dec. 29-31	Oct. 22-24; Nov. 23-Dec.5; Dec. 17-19; Dec. 29-31
Boone Clay (south portion - S. of Elk River) Fayette (west portion - Rt.19 to New River to Gauley River) Greenbrier (north portion - N. of Rt. 60, N. of I-64, N. & W. of Rt. 9, W. of Rt. 219 at Renick, N. of Rt. 11, E. of Greenbrier R., N. of I-64, E of Rt. 60/14) Kanawha (south portion - S. of Elk River and E. of Corridor G) Mineral (west portion- Starting at the WV/MD Line follow US Rt. 220 to SR 972, to US Rt 50, to SR 93 to County Line) Pendleton (west portion - Straight Fk. to N. Fork of the S. Branch of the Potomac River) Raleigh (west portion - Rt. 99 to Rt. 3, south on Rt. 3 to I-77/64 then I-77/64W to county line) Tucker Wayne Webster	Clay (north portion - N. of Elk River)(250) Fayette (east portion - Rt.19 to New River to Gauley River)(200) Mercer (200) Nicholas (250) Pocahontas (300) Raleigh (east portion - Rt. 99 to Rt. 3, south on Rt. 3 to I- 77/64 then I- 77/64W to county line) (200) Randolph (500)	Barbour Braxton Cabell Grant Hancock Kanawha (north portion - N. of Elk River and W. of Corridor G) Lincoln Marshall Pleasants Preston Summers Taylor Upshur	Berkeley Brooke Hardy Harrison Jackson Jefferson Lewis Marion Mason Monongalia Monroe Ohio Pendleton (east portion - Straight Fk. to N. Fork of the S. Branch of the Potomac River) Putnam Roane Tyler Wetzel Wirt	Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Greenbrier (south portion - S. of Rt. 60, S of I-64, S & E of Rt. 9, E of Rt. 219 at Renick, S of Rt. 11, W of Greenbrier R., S of I-64, W of Rt. 60/14) Hampshire Mineral (east portion - Starting at the WV/MD Line follow US Rt. 220 to SR 972, to US Rt 50, to SR 93 to County Line) Morgan Ritchie Wood

\*In these counties, archery hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the archery deer season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the archery deer season. In addition, buck firearms hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the antlerless deer season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the buck firearms season.



## PROPOSED 2015 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC LANDS

**Season Dates: Nov. 23 - Dec. 5, 2015; Dec. 17 - 19, 2015; and Dec. 29 - 31, 2015**

### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO LIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1

Elk River WMA (250) (Braxton Co.)	Greenbrier SF (50) (Greenbrier Co.)	Big Ugly WMA (50) (Lincoln Co.)
Kumbrabow SF (50) (Randolph Co.)	Wallback WMA (100) (Roane/Clay/Kanawha Cos.)	

### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1

Castlemans Run WMA (Brooke/Ohio Cos.)	Stonecoal Lake WMA (Lewis/Upshur Cos.)	Camp Creek WMA (Mercer Co.)	McClintic WMA (Mason Co.)
Coopers Rock SF (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)	Stonewall Jackson Lake WMA (Lewis Co.)	Amherst/Plymouth WMA (Putnam Co.)	
Cross Creek WMA (Brooke Co.)	Beury Mountain WMA (Fayette Co.)	Chief Cornstalk WMA (Mason Co.)	
Lewis Wetzel WMA (Wetzel/Tyler Cos.)	Bluestone WMA (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Cos.)	Green Bottom WMA (Cabell/Mason Cos.)	

### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CLOSED TO ANTLERLESS SEASON

Blackwater WMA (Preston/Tucker Cos.)	Little River WMA (Pocahontas Co.)	Neola WMA (Greenbrier/Pocahontas Cos.)
Beaver Dam WMA (Randolph Co.)	Otter Creek WMA (Randolph/Tucker Cos.)	Potts Creek WMA (Monroe Co.)
Calvin Price SF (Pocahontas Co.)	Potomac WMA (Grant/Pendleton/Randolph/Tucker Cos.)	Hilbert WMA (Lincoln Co.)
Cheat WMA (Randolph Co.)	Rimel WMA (Pocahontas Co.)	Morris Creek WMA (Kanawha/Clay Cos.)
Cranberry WMA (Nicholas/Webster/Pocahontas/ Greenbrier Cos.)	Seneca SF (Pocahontas Co.)	Upper Mud River WMA (Lincoln Co.)
Handley WMA (Pocahontas Co.)	Tea Creek WMA (Pocahontas/Randolph/Webster Cos.)	

**All other WMAs and public lands will have the same regulations as private land in the respective county or portion of county where the WMAs or other public lands are located.**



**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2015-2016  
Big Game Hunting Seasons**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Closing Dates</b>	<b>Comments/Changes</b>
Bear (Archery)	Sept. 26, 2015 - Nov. 21, 2015 Dec. 7, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2015	
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties}	Sept. 5, 2015 - Sept. 12, 2015 Sept. 19, 2015 - Sept. 25, 2015 Oct. 3, 2015 - Oct. 9, 2015 Nov. 23, 2015 - Dec. 5, 2015 Dec. 7, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2015	See Bear Table
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 24, 2015 - Oct. 31, 2015	
Boar (Archery)	Sept. 26, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2015	
Deer (Archery – Special Urban)	Sept. 5, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2015	
Deer (Archery)	Sept. 26, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2015	
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 23, 2015 - Dec. 5, 2015	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 22, 2015 - Oct. 24, 2015 Nov. 23, 2015 - Dec. 5, 2015 Dec. 17, 2015 - Dec. 19, 2015 Dec. 29, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2015	See Attached Deer Tables for Selected Counties
Deer (Youth/Q/XS Season - Antlerless)	Oct. 17, 2015 Dec. 26, 2015 & Dec. 28, 2015	
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 7, 2015 - Dec. 12, 2015	
Turkey (Fall) - (4 week counties)	Oct. 10, 2015 - Oct. 17, 2015 Oct. 26, 2015 - Nov. 14, 2015	
Turkey (Fall) - (2 week counties)	Oct. 10, 2015 - Oct. 17, 2015 Oct. 26, 2015 - Oct. 31, 2015	Fall counties determined after 2015 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Fall) - (1 week counties)	Oct. 10, 2015 - Oct. 17, 2015	Fall counties determined after 2015 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Spring Youth Season)	April 23, 2016	
Turkey (Spring 2016)	April 25, 2016 - May 21, 2016	

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2016-2017  
Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Closing Dates</b>	<b>Comments/Changes</b>
Squirrel	Sept. 10, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 3, 2016	
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 15, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 15, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Quail	Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 7, 2017	
Rabbit	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 2, 2017 Nov. 12, 2016 - Dec. 3, 2016	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping) (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017 Jan. 1, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Mar. 31, 2017	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2016 - Nov. 19, 2016 Jan. 1, 2017 - Mar. 4, 2017	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	
Coyote (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Jan. 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	
Elk, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season	Mountain Lions removed (Pending Approval of Legislative Rules)

## Proposed Walleye Regulations

### Broodstock Lakes

Water Body	Proposed Regulation
Charles Fork	Catch-and-Release
Dog Run	Catch-and-Release

### Kanawha River Sub-Basin

Water Body	Proposed Regulation
Coal River	2/day 20-30 inch slot 1 over 30
Elk River (downstream of Sutton Dam)	2/day 20-30 inch slot 1 over 30
Elk River (upstream of Sutton Dam including Sutton Reservoir)	8/day 15 inch minimum
Gauley River (downstream of Summersville Dam)	2/day 20-30 inch slot 1 over 30
Gauley River (upstream of Summersville Dam including Summersville Reservoir)	8/day 20-30 inch slot 1 over 30
Greenbrier River	2/day 20-30 inch slot 1 over 30
Kanawha River (Winfield pool upstream to New River)	2/day 20-30 inch slot 1 over 30
Stephens Lake	8/day 15 inch minimum

### Monongahela River Sub-Basin

Water Body	Proposed Regulation
Cheat River (WV/PA state line upstream including Cheat Reservoir)	8/day 15 inch minimum
Monongahela River	8/day 15 inch minimum
Stonecoal Lake	8/day 15 inch minimum
Tygart River (including Tygart Reservoir)	8/day 15 inch minimum
West Fork River (downstream of Stonewall Jackson Dam)	8/day 15 inch minimum

### Ohio River Sub-Basin

Water Body	Proposed Regulation
Burnsville Reservoir	8/day 15 inch minimum
Ohio River tributaries (includes reciprocal agreement boundaries)	2/day 18-inch minimum

### General Statewide

Water Body	Proposed Regulation
Rivers and Impoundments Not Listed Above Or Proposed For Change	8/day no size limit

**No new changes proposed for the New River which is currently under special walleye regulations.  
Possession limits are twice the daily creel limit.**

**THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION IS INTERESTED IN  
OBTAINING YOUR OPINION RELATING TO SEVERAL HUNTING  
SEASON FRAMEWORKS AS WELL AS MANDATORY BEAR TOOTH  
SUBMISSION**

1. Would you support changing the closing date of the statewide squirrel hunting season from January 31 to the last day of February?

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you support a regulation that would require hunters harvesting a bear to submit a first premolar tooth to the Division of Natural Resources by January 31 of the year following the kill? The tooth should be secured to a card along with a label with the name and address of the hunter, date of kill, weapon used, whether dogs were used to kill the bear, county of kill and the game tag number and either mailed or delivered to a Division of Natural Resources District Office.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you support changing the opening date of the statewide spring gobbler season from the fourth Monday in April to the third Monday in April and then running for twenty-seven (27) consecutive days thereafter? ***(Note: This regulation change would result in an opening date ranging from April 15 to April 21.)***

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you support changing the two-week buck firearms season opening date from the Monday preceding Thanksgiving and running for 13 consecutive days to opening on the Monday in which the following 13 consecutive days constitute the final two full weeks of November? ***(Note: This regulation change would result in an opening date ranging from November 12 to November 18.)***

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

*The Natural Resource Commission is comprised of seven citizen members appointed by the Governor and serves in an advisory role to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and its Director. The Commission's primary responsibility is to promulgate regulations relating to the hunting, fishing and trapping seasons and the bag, creel, size, age, weight and sex limits with respect to wildlife in this State.*